

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AGRE-00 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 AF-08 ARA-06

EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 COME-00 ISO-00 TRSE-00 /075 W

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R 221709Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1338

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASIWA

USMISSION GENEVA

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FODAG

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNCTAD, ETRD

SUBJ: UNCTAD PREPARATORY CONSULTATIONS ON HARD FIBERS AND HARD  
FIBER PRODUCTS

REF: (A) GENEVA 9237 (B) STATE 278673 (C) ROME 18363

1. AFTER UNCTAD OFFICIAL LEFT, WE FOLLOWED UP WITH FAO HARD FIBER  
EXPERT OPPE (ITALIAN) ON PREPARATION OF HARD FIBER PAPERS.

2. OPPE SAID THAT ABACA PAPER IS AT UNCTAD PRINTERS AND WOULD  
BE READY IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS. UNCTAD HAD SHORTENED FAO'S ORIGINAL  
DRAFT AND NOW PAPER HAS BEEN CLEARED BY BOTH SECRETARIATS. HE DID  
NOT HAVE A COPY, BUT DESCRIBED PAPER AS SIMILAR TO FAO/UNCTAD JUTE  
PAPER REVISED TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THAT PHILIPPINES ONLY ABACA  
PRODUCER. THUS PAPER FORESEES NATIONAL STOCKS WITH INTERNATIONAL  
FINANCING. THERE ARE ALSO PROVISIONS FOR PRICE STABILIZATION,  
PRODUCTION RATIONALIZATION, NEW GRADING, AND INCREASED RESEARCH  
AND DEVELOPMENT.

3. OPPE GAVE ME TWO DRAFT PAPERS ON COIR AND SISAL PREPARED  
BY FAO FOR UNCTAD. (OGDEN, EB/ORF/OFP WILL HAND-CARRY TO WASH-  
INGTON ON THURSDAY, NOV. 25.) THE COIR PAPER IS CLEARED BY FAO

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AND UNCTAD AND WILL BE PRINTED IN TWO WEEKS. SISAL PAPER IS

APPROVED TEXT, BUT UNCTAD IS GOING TO EDIT SO FINAL TEXT MAY NOT BE EXACTLY THE SAME. WE WILL STUDY BOTH PAPERS AND SEND IN SUMMARY.

4. BRAZILIAN FAO REP BERNARDO DE AZEVEDO BRITO APPROACHED US AND SAID HIS GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN URGING POSTPONEMENT OF UNCTAD HARD FIBERS COMMODITY MEETING, BUT SECRETARIAT REFUSED. BRITO EXPLAINED BRAZILIANS HAVE THEIR OWN NATIONAL STOCKS OF SISAL AND ARE WORRIED ABOUT EFFECTS OF UNCTAD INTERVENTION. STILL ACCORDING TO BRITO, BRAZIL DOES NOT WANT TO SEE RAPID PROGRESS ON HARD FIBERS IN UNCTAD. BRAZIL ALSO DOES NOT WANT NEW HARD FIBERS COMMITTEE CREATED BUT, AFTER EXPERIENCE IN GENEVA ON JUTE, BELIEVES THIS IMPOSSIBLE. THUS BRAZIL (BRITO) WOULD LIKE TO BECOME CHAIRMAN OF HARD FIBERS GROUP IN UNCTAD AND THEN SINCE BRITO IS CHAIRMAN OF FAO IG ON HARD FIBERS, MERGE TWO GROUPS TOGETHER UNOFFICIALLY. BRITO IS ALSO APPROACHING EEC ALONG SAME LINES. BRITO ADMITS IF CONFRONTATION ARISES BETWEEN GROUP OF 77 AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, BRAZIL WILL DROP HER NATIONAL INTERESTS IN SISAL AND GO ALONG WITH GROUP OF 77. AFTER RECEIPT OF SUMMARY OF UNCTAD/FAO SISAL CABLE, WE SUGGEST THAT EMBASSY CHECK OUT BRAZILIAN POSITION WITH GOB. IF WE COULD INCONSPICUOUSLY BACK BRAZIL AT UPCOMING UNCTAD HARD FIBERS MEETING IT WOULD MAKE US POSITION MUCH EASIER.  
BEAUDRY

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## Message Attributes

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